

the NATO headquarters to a more friendly country.

Belgium should not turn its legal system into a platform for divisive politicized lawsuits against her own NATO allies. No civilian or military leader could go to Brussels without fear of harassment from Belgium's courts enforcing spurious charges against them. The bureaucrats in Brussels and around the world who think they can wield unlimited global judicial power without being elected by anyone should be stopped.

IN SUPPORT OF DEBT RELIEF

(Mrs. MALONEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to urge my colleagues to support legislation I have introduced with the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH), H.R. 2482, the Iraqi Freedom from Debt Act. This bill will require the United States to negotiate in the International Monetary Fund and World Bank for these institutions to relieve the debt owed them by Iraq. This legislation also includes a sense of Congress that France and Russia and all other creditors should relieve the debts owed by Iraq.

While estimates of Iraq's debt range from one hundred billion to several hundred billion, the combined debt owed the IMF and World Bank is just \$150 million. These institutions have the resources to relieve this debt, setting an important precedent for the rest of the world.

The case for debt relief in Iraq is especially compelling, given the fact that much of the debt can be characterized as odious. Odious debt is recognized as debt that is taken on by a country for the personal benefit of corrupt leaders or for the oppression of a people.

By taking the lead on debt relief, the U.S. has an opportunity to boost the Iraqi economy and to prove to the world that a major reason for U.S. action in Iraq was to benefit the Iraqi people.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

U.S.-EU SUMMIT IMPORTANT

(Mr. BEREUTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, today this city is the site of the annual U.S.-EU summit. Leaders of the European Union are here meeting with President Bush and members of his administration in order to strengthen transatlantic relations and to work on a common agenda which seeks solutions to issues within this relationship.

A balanced and well-defined U.S.-EU relationship is critical to global peace and stability. Although the difficult debate over Iraq presented yet another challenge to the relationship between the United States and Europe, it remains clear to this Member that a

strong, mature transatlantic relationship is critical to the long-term economic, political and security interests of both the United States and Europe. And one of the central ingredients to a successful partnership with Europe is a stable and integrated European Union. It is important that the EU has evolved to become, along with NATO, one of the two critical international organizations to achieve these objectives.

Summits such as the one today along with legislative exchanges can serve to reinvigorate transatlantic relations in order that we, the United States and the Europeans, can together meet the global challenges we face.

MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

(Ms. SOLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to bring to this House an affordable and guaranteed Medicare prescription drug benefit to seniors. So far, my Republican colleagues have proposed a bill that does nothing to lower the cost of prescription drugs and actually raises seniors' Medicare part B deductible at a rate of eight times higher than their Social Security cost of living increase, which was just 1.5 percent.

Perhaps they are not hearing the same message that I hear when I go home and talk to my constituents. In the cities that I represent in East Los Angeles and in the San Gabriel Valley, seniors are telling me that they want an affordable and guaranteed drug benefit, just like the Democratic plan. They do not want a voucher program that dismantles Medicare as they know it. They simply want their medicine, and they want a choice to be able to keep their doctor.

Thirty-eight years ago this program was created. So many people in our district, the district that I represent, feel that this is their safety net and here we are attempting to try to privatize it. That is the wrong thing to do while people right now are struggling to make ends meet. Vote down this proposition that is being put forward by the Republican Party.

REMEMBERING ARMY SPECIALIST ORENTIAL J. SMITH

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in sadness to report the third death that has touched the Second District of South Carolina during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Twenty-one-year-old Specialist Orential J. Smith paid the ultimate sacrifice in the war against terrorism when he was killed during an ambush on his convoy south of Baghdad on Sunday. He was born in Barnwell, South Carolina, and

lived in nearby Martin in Allendale County.

O.J. joined the United States Army shortly after graduating from high school with the intent on making the military his lifelong career. Stationed in Dexheim, Germany, with the 123rd Maintenance Support Battalion, Specialist Smith was a leader with a great potential. While in Germany, he graduated ninth out of 127 from a leadership development course.

I ask all of my colleagues to join me in extending to O.J.'s family our most sincere thanks for their son's sacrifice and commitment to bringing liberty and freedom to the oppressed people of Iraq while protecting the American public in the war against terrorism.

In conclusion, may God bless our troops.

WAS AMERICA MISLED ON IRAQ'S WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION?

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, today the House will consider an amendment to H.R. 2417 which will direct the Inspector General of the Central Intelligence Agency to conduct an audit of all telephone records and electronic communications between the CIA and the Office of the Vice President that relate to so-called weapons of mass destruction obtained or developed by Iraq preceding Operation Iraqi Freedom. I have introduced this amendment to obtain the Vice President's records in response to a June 5 article in the Washington Post which reported that the Vice President made multiple visits to the CIA by which some analysts felt pressured to make their assessments on Iraq fit with Bush administration policy objectives.

This administration has repeatedly claimed they had evidence which proved that Iraq had vast stockpiles of weapons of mass destruction that posed an imminent threat to the United States. Americans remember that this administration cited their evidence of Iraq's weapons as reason to go to war.

It has been over 3 months since the start of the war. No such weapons have been found. Has there been a massive intelligence failure on the part of all our intelligence agencies? Or has this administration deliberately misled this Nation to war? Either way, there needs to be an investigation.

My amendment would uncover the role the Vice President may have played to achieve a political translation of CIA intelligence about alleged stockpiles of weapons of mass destruction in order to suit the Bush administration's campaign to push this country to war.

MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Only in Washington, Mr. Speaker, could Congress be prepared to add a whole new entitlement to Medicare which may cost children like my today 10-year-old daughter Charlotte \$7 trillion and Democrats are holding up tombstones to say Medicare is being phased out. It is astonishing to a conservative like me.

Today, Mr. Speaker, I informed our leadership that I cannot support the creation of a new Federal entitlement in the form of a universal drug benefit in Medicare, which is not to say that I am not ready today to help those at or near the level of poverty that are struggling with that terrible choice between food and rent and prescription drugs.

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Let us focus resources at the point of the need and not answer the scare tactics of the other side and end up playing their game and creating an all new massive Federal entitlement that kids like my little Charlotte will have to pay for for generations.

THE REPUBLICANS' PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFIT

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. How can the Republicans spend \$400 billion on a prescription drug benefit that will impose costs without benefits on many seniors and a totally inadequate benefit for those most in need? We start with the premise that, first and foremost, the plan is designed to protect and enhance the profits of the pharmaceutical industry and the private insurance industry. Yes, seniors will be pushed into a confusing maze of PPO, HMO, discount card, private insurance plans, no limit on premiums, no limit on profits, and no required benefits. Very expensive. The pharmaceutical industry will prevent the reimportation of their manufactured U.S. drugs from Canada, and they are going to protect the obscene prices they get for their drugs.

This plan will do a great job protecting the profits of the pharmaceutical industry and the insurance industry but pitifully little for our Nation's seniors, those so much in need. But so it should be. The insurance and pharmaceutical industries are the number one and number two campaign contributors to the Republican Party.

MEDICARE REFORM

(Mr. BURNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURNS. Mr. Speaker, the debate rages over health care in this country. I rise in support of improved health care for our Nation's seniors, and I think it has to be done through Medi-

care. I believe that Congress can truly improve the seniors' standard of living through preventative care and alternative treatment. The proposed Medicare reform legislation will move us in the right direction. I am encouraged by the prospects of shifting Medicare from a system that manages seniors when they are already sick into a system that is designed to prevent them from becoming sick in the first place. Preventative care is a part of the Medicare reform. Preventative care is truly the best form of care that we can and we should provide for our America's seniors.

PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

(Mr. EMANUEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, what is missing from the debate about Medicare this week is how to make medications more affordable at affordable prices and more accessible to all Americans of all ages. And this is not a partisan problem. It is an American problem.

We have a bipartisan bill to use market forces to reduce prices, allow generics to come to market to compete against name-brand drugs, which would save \$60 billion over the next 10 years. Another piece of our legislation uses market forces to allow consumers, businesses, Federal Government through Medicare to buy drugs in 27 countries, be they Germany, France, England, Italy, Canada, where prices are 40 to 50 percent cheaper.

I have the full confidence through our market forces we can make medications cheaper, and I have the confidence and hope my colleagues have the confidence in market forces that they are able to do that.

The third component would be to allow the NIH to recoup a 10 percent royalty on any drug developed with taxpayer resources. In the private sector, 30 percent is normally recouped on a rate of return. Ten percent for NIH funded research, all the cancer drugs, all the AIDS drugs on the market are developed with taxpayer return.

We should no longer consider taxpayer research dumb money. We should recoup that money because the NIH is the largest venture capital fund out there, use market forces to reduce prices, make medications for all Americans more affordable.

THE PRESCRIPTION DRUG PROGRAM

(Mr. SMITH of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, on the prescription drug program that we are about to vote on this week, I am not an expert on health care or prescriptions; but I have observed over the years what happens when govern-

ment takes over some of these programs. The big change of course was when we amended the Social Security bill in 1965 to add Medicare. We estimated at that time that the cost of Medicare by 1990 would be \$9 billion. It was \$70 billion projected 2003 to be \$26 billion, but the actual cost today is \$265 billion. This bill we are estimating at \$400 billion. I suggest that is a very low estimate, and the second 10 years is the greater challenge because of retirements.

To seniors, the danger is they are going to start out with choice on whether seniors keep their current Medicare and other insurance; but eventually as government goes broke and needs the money, there is the tendency to force everybody in the program to moderate the cost of the program. Industry is promoting this system because eventually they are going to reduce their prescription drug coverage to the retirees that they are now paying for. After that comes rationing. I think there are a lot of disadvantages for seniors in this bill, Mr. Speaker.

HOLDING THE ADMINISTRATION ACCOUNTABLE

(Mr. ETHERIDGE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call on Congress to support accountability in education reform. Last year, Congress passed President Bush's "no child left behind" education reform bill. The legislation authorized billions of dollars in new funding to support administration's reform effort that seeks to ensure accountability from our schools, but who will hold the administration accountable?

The fact is that this administration is shortchanging our schools nearly \$20 billion under the No Child Left Behind. While our schools' struggle to meet tough new standards and local budgets is stretched to the limit in this bad economy, the administration has failed its responsibility to provide leadership and resources for our schools. Congress must hold the administration accountable. I have introduced legislation to do just that. H.R. 2366 requires full funding of the No Child Left Behind act or suspends its punitive measures. Without full funding, No Child Left Behind will become a massive unfunded mandate that will require cuts in vital services and increased property taxes or both. Similar legislation has been introduced in the other body, and I urge my colleagues to join me in this effort to hold the administration accountable to our children, to our schools, and to our taxpayers.

PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)